

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 50, 52, 89, 91 and 118 are presently active in this case. The present Amendment amends claims 50, 52, 89 and 91, and cancels claims 1-5, 12-14, 73, 74, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 102, 104-108 and 110-117 without prejudice.

The outstanding Office Action rejected Claims 1-5, 12-14, 50, 52, 73, 74, 82, 84, 86, 88-91, 102, 104-108 and 110-117 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Tomita (U.S. Patent No. 6,100,884, herein "Tomita") in view of Mankovitz (U.S. Patent No. 5,494,492, herein "Mankovitz").

Claims 50, 52, 89, and 91 were objected to as dependent upon rejected base claims, but were noted as allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims. Claims 118-125 were indicated as being allowable.

Initially, applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication of the allowable subject matter and the allowance in claims 50, 52, 89, 91, and 118-125.

The present response is submitted to place the above-identified application in condition for allowance based on the indication of allowable subject matter noted above.

More particularly, by the present response each of claims 50, 52, 89, and 91 is amended to be rewritten in independent form. Thus, those claims recite subject matter indicated as allowable in the outstanding Office Action. The other claims that were rejected have also been canceled by the present response without prejudice.

Thereby, by the present response only claims reciting subject matter indicated as allowable in the outstanding Office Action are currently pending.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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